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Letter dated 28 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 25 February 2002 (S/2002/198) in which I informed you of the attack against the garrison of the Congolese armed forces at Muliro, in Katanga province, on the night of 22 to 23 February 2002 launched by units of the Rwandan armed forces and elements of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) in violation of the current ceasefire. I have the honour to confirm that the Congolese armed forces, acting in self-defence, ferociously resisted the attackers and managed to push the enemy troops back beyond Kamamba.

My Government, however, convinced of the urgent need to establish peace and put an end to the unspeakable suffering of the Congolese people, has decided to decree a unilateral ceasefire. To that end, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has ordered its troops to begin pulling back to their original position.

My Government reaffirms that it has been resolutely involved in the peace and democratization process since January 2001 and remains determined to ensure the success of the inter-Congolese dialogue aimed at the country's reunification.

My Government denounces this crude attempt to torpedo the inter-Congolese dialogue process, which sheds new light on the many delaying tactics and other manoeuvres which RCD-Goma and the Mouvement de libération du Congo are using in an attempt to delay the actual start of the national dialogue.

My Government therefore requests the Security Council:

1. To condemn Rwanda and RCD-Goma for causing this latest pointless escalation;

2. To pressure Rwanda to allow RCD-Goma freely to join the peace and national reconciliation process;

3. To take all necessary measures under the Charter of the United Nations to enable observers from the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to be sent to the conflict zone at Muliro to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire and the withdrawal of the forces present there;

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4. To demand that Rwanda and RCD-Goma comply fully and strictly with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the Kampala disengagement plan and the Harare disengagement and redeployment subplans, which they signed freely and which are aimed at instituting an effective ceasefire and at speeding up the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

5. To demand that the dictatorial, mono-ethnic and sectarian Government of President Kagame and his Akazu fully respect the territorial integrity, political independence and national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and give up its attempts to carry out the "Anschluss" of the country's eastern provinces;

6. To spare no effort to put an end to Rwanda's belligerent attitude, which it is authorized to do under the Charter of the United Nations and under its own resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government once more reminds the Security Council, at the risk of wearying it, of the heavy price already paid by the Congolese people in terms of the massacres, rapes and multiple violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the aggressor countries, including Rwanda, in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative